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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/569,338

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Sean Kelly

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WORKMAN NYDEGGER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111

EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, CLAYTON R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/569,338	Applicant(s) KELLY, SEAN	
	Examiner Clayton R. Williams	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-18 are amended per 9 July 2008 amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrero, in view of Banatwala et al., US 2004/0141005 (hereinafter Banatwala).

For claim 1, Herrero teaches a system for enabling a user to create at least one task (Abstract), the system comprising:

a host server for hosting task pages once they have been created ([0029], lines 2-6, a host computer 110 and its associated database server 118 and web server 116 are disclosed);

at least one user computer running a browser program operable by at least one user to access task pages hosted by said host server that said at least one user has permission to access ([0030], browsers 126-128 access host computer 110 for purpose

of manipulating and interacting with to-do lists; [0034], disclosure of clients authenticating themselves with server to view tasks associated with them); and

a task creator configured to create a task record in response to a command from an initiating user ([0040], options menu 410 allows user to add/edit projects whose properties are stored on host computer 110), the task record including a task universal resource indicator (uri) for each new task whereby said host server can create a task page from said task record that can be accessed using said task uri.

Herrero does not explicitly disclose the limitation:

the task record including a task universal resource indicator (uri) for each new task whereby said host server can create a task page from said task record that can be accessed using said task uri

However, Banatwala discloses project/meeting management system that generates url web links that are transmitted to users registered with the system as members of a meeting/project ([0118], lines 18-20; transmission of message that includes url link to project to group members). Herrero and Banatwala are analogous art because both are from endeavor of web-based project creation/management.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Herrero with those of Banatwala because extending Herrero's system to include direct web links to a project would allow for more convenient access by users to posted online tasks/projects.

For claim 2, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said system comprises a plurality of user computers (Herrero, [0030], lines 1-2, browsers 126-128).

For claim 3, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said task creator is configured to allow the initiating user to specify at least one additional user for a task and to create an association record specifying the initiating user and any additional users specified by the initiating user, the association record defining the users who have permission to access the task page (Herrero, [0051], disclosure of user creating tasks at step 340 and selecting users, i.e. contacts, to associate with this task at step 342).

For claim 4, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the task creator is configured to dispatch a message (Herrero, [0035], host computer 110 keeps users apprised through messages sent via a variety of means) including the task uri to the at least one additional user to thereby inform the at least one additional user of the task whereafter the at least one additional user can access said task page using a browser program run by the additional user's user computer (Banatwala, [0118], lines 18-20; transmission of message that includes url link to project to group members).

For claim 5, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 4, comprising e-mail messaging means whereby the message dispatched is an e-mail message (Herrero, [0035], host computer disclosed to send messages via mail server 122).

For claim 6, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 4, comprising SMS messaging means whereby the message dispatched is an SMS message (Herrero, [0035], host computer disclosed to send messages via wireless means, including notification via cell phones).

For claim 7, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the task creator is a task creation program run by said host server which is operable using the browser program run by the initiating user's user computer (Herrero, [0030], host computer 110 maintains a to-do list which is accessible via browser by browsers 126-128).

For claim 8, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said task creator allows an initiating user to add at least one subject uri of at least one subject page to the task record, whereafter the task page includes the at least one subject uri whereby users can access the subject page from the task page (Herrero, [0031], lines 1-8, disclosure of items (tasks) being associated with, and accessible from, a project webpage).

For claim 9, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a task creation uri is placed on a subject page and the initiating user sends a command to said task creator by selecting the task creation uri whereafter the task creator creates a task record including the uri of the subject uri (Herrero, [0040], disclosure of interface 400 allowing for creation of tasks and projects).

For claim 10, Herrero fails to explicitly disclose a system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising automatically adding an additional user to the task record.

However, Banatwala discloses project/meeting management system that automatically adds users to a task record upon creation of a project ([0041], QuickPlaces are analogous to projects; [0054], QP members are members of a quickplace; [0070], when event is created, system automatically sends notice to members of Quickplace group. Herrero and Banatwala are analogous art because both are from endeavor of web-based project creation/management.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Herrero with those of Banatwala because extending Herrero's system to include automatic addition of users to project allows for lessened burden on project creator when creating projects geared toward pre-established affinity groups.

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For claim 11, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a task creation uri stored in a uri record of an initiating user's browser, whereby when viewing a subject page an initiating user sends a command to said task creator by selecting the task creation uri from the uri record whereafter the task creator creates a task record including the subject uri (Herrero, [0031], lines 1-4, disclosure of system allowing user, via browser interface, to add to-do items, i.e. subjects, to a task, i.e. project).

For claim 12, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said host server hosts a home page for each user (Herrero, [0030], lines 1-7, disclosure of personalized web page for each user that tracks pending tasks, etc. for each user).

For claim 13, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said home page is configured such that users can access all tasks which they have permission to access from their respective home pages (Herrero, [0034], lines 1-3).

For claim 14, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an event creator for creating events associated with a task (Herrero, [0031], lines 1-4).

For claim 15, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 14, wherein an event may be created from the task page (Herrero, [0040], lines 1-4).

For claim 16, Herrero fails to explicitly disclose a system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising chat means which allows users who have permission to access a task to chat to one another when they are logged onto the system at the same time.

However, Banatwala discloses project/meeting management system that allows for chat between Quickplace members who are simultaneously logged in ([0085]). Herrero and Banatwala are analogous art because both are from endeavor of web-based project creation/management.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Herrero with those of Banatwala because extending Herrero's system to include real-time chat allows for additional collaboration among affinity members.

For claim 17, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala teaches a system as claimed in claim 16, wherein each task page has means for initiating a chat (Banatwala, [0084-0085], disclosure that when user enters a Quickplace, i.e. task, he's presented with listing of group members; thereafter, user may click on user name to ascertain status of user and, if the other party is logged-in as well, initiate a chat).

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrero, in view of Banatwala, and further in view of Gifford et al., US 20020131561 (hereinafter Gifford).

For claim 18, the combination of Herrero and Banatwala fails to explicitly disclose a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said task creator is configured to allow specification of a lifetime for a task whereby during said lifetime a user who selects the task uri is directed immediately to the task page and outside said lifetime said user is required to confirm their identity.

However, Gifford discloses a user web-based system whereby a user has to authenticate himself after attempting to open a link (uri) on a web page personalized for that user's account, after a finite period of time has elapsed ([0117], lines 11-15). The combination of Herrero and Banatwala and Gifford are analogous art because both are from endeavor of authentication schemes for web-pages which display tailored data to individual users.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of the combination with an inactivity logout scheme because this modification allows for implementation of security controls for both the project and user accounts which allow for a grace period before a user must authenticate himself.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-18 under Herrero, in view of Taylor have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Herrero, in view of Banatwala, and further in view of Gifford.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clayton R. Williams whose telephone number is 571-270-3801. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Aug. 13, 2008
CRW

Clayton R. Williams
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2157

/Ario Etienne/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2157